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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes and evaluates the experiences of a member of a three-week teen internship program in communications which was held at the National 4-H Center, Washington, D.C., during the summer of 1974. Specific activities in which the intern participated are discussed. The interest emphasis was on photojournalism. (MKM)

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COMMUNICATION

A 4-H TEEN INTERN REPORT

By

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SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

Barry Moenter - Oregon, Ohio
Teen Internship in Communications
National 4-H Center - June 11-July 3, 1974

his summary is intended to review the objectives set forth at the eginning of my internship and to evaluate my success in achieving them.

bjectives

. To further my understanding and knowledge of the communications media, and its role in our society.

. To gain practical experience in communications by actually working with it and with the people in it - something I can take back with me.

. Improving upon my journalistic abilities in news writing and reporting, photo-journalism and possibly radio and television work.

. Improvement of leadership abilities in work with other staff members and Short Course participants.

. Some writing of material for publication by my sponsors, and possibly the state 4-H office.

ossible Ideas

. Communications Week

a. Oversee photographers - instruction in what to look for in a good journalistic picture - composition. (This should be presented early in the week, and hopefully will help with their picture-taking on tours.)

b. Help with poll - I wouldn't mind doing a feature article for release.

c. Would like to participate with some of the tours - a TV station, newspaper.

d. Help with any of the sessions where needed - help with newsletter, presentations, radio interviews, audio-visuals, etc.

. Rest of the Time

a. An article on Ohio IFYE, Paul Shassler, for possible Ohio release.

b. Visit Voice of America broadcast house.

c. Press section at the Capitol.

d. Visit USDA Information Bureau.

e. If time permits, visit Maryland 4-H Information Division. I have a strong feeling it won't be much different than Ohio, but it might be worth it just for the sake of comparison.

f. Any communications-oriented sessions (National Public TV, etc.) it might be possible to observe.

g. A general article on the National 4-H Center and Citizenship Short Course for publication in Ohio. Generally, slanted towards Ohio's involvement, and including a pix of congressmen and a few delegates. This was requested by the Ohio Farmer magazine.

h. Generally, tailing the Ohio delegation, especially on Capitol Hill. This is flexible and not concrete - if there is something more important, I'd prefer to do that.

i. Any possibility to view a TV production (maybe "Meet the Press", or an evening news show?).

j. If anything safety-oriented could be worked in, I'd appreciate that - I'm Ohio's safety winner for this year, and would like to "build" on my record for National Club Congress.

k. Any communications people that you might feel it worthwhile to meet.

l. Articles on events or people here at the Center.

SUMMARY OF INTERNSHIP

I arrived in Washington on June 11, 1974 for a three-week period. My first few days at the Center were spent in carrying out routine tasks for the Communications Division, meeting and working with the staff, and setting objectives for my stay. Time was also spent in planning the special emphasis program for the next week's Citizenship Short Course, which dealt with "Communications and the Democratic Process".

My first full week was spent with the special emphasis group. My major responsibility involved working with the photographers, who were covering various events for our newsletter, for slide shows, and for feature articles. I also helped with the newspaper layout, with poll analysis, and general leadership responsibilities of the group.

During the second week, a delegation from my home state, Ohio, was here for Citizenship Short Course. Because my Ohio sponsors were interested in state 4-H news from Washington, D.C., it was decided that I should cover the delegation and their involvement during the week with Citizenship Short Course, As a result, this week was spent with the group,

on tours and attending sessions, photographing and recording the events and experiences of the group. Upon my return, I will write articles for my two sponsors and for the state 4-H office regarding these experiences. These and my photographs also will be shared with the National 4-H Foundation.

My last week was used to visit two important federal communications divisions, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Labor. In addition, time was spent pulling together loose strings, and preparing reports such as this one for publication.

REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES

With regard to my first objective, there is no doubt as to my increased understanding and knowledge of the communications field. I worked with two exceptionally knowledgeable experts in the field, and also visited with others. Tours of media facilities gave me a working knowledge of the production of television and radio shows, a newspaper, and basic public relations.

My second and third objectives are actually inter-related, and are based on the "Learn By Doing" theory. I was mainly interested in photo-journalism, but also needed expertise in news writing and reporting, along with interviewing techniques. This I received in carrying out assignments for the Communications Division, and for my Ohio sponsors. I will also be receiving more experience upon my return home, by doing outside articles about my internship.

My fourth objective is, by nature, rather subjective, but I do feel that my leadership potential was drawn upon and added to in the course of my internship. I gained much experience in small-group leadership during the special emphasis week, and in large-group leadership while participating with the Ohio delegation, although by necessity, I was required to assume more of an "objective reporter" role.

My fifth objective will be more than adequately fulfilled when I return home.

In my objectives, I also set forth possible ideas that would contribute to achieving my objectives. The cooperation I received in arranging these was nothing short of fantastic - many people helped to make my possibilities come into being.

My special emphasis week ideas were 100% completed, except for the feature article, which will be finished upon my return. Of my other possibilities, I was unable to visit the Capitol Building press center, due to lack of time (arrangements were made but unfulfilled). I was also unable to view a major television production due to corporate policies. It was also decided not to visit the Maryland 4-H Information Division, due to lack of time and educational value. All others, though, were fulfilled beyond my highest hopes.

EVALUATION

In retrospect, it is now time to ask the important question, "What did I learn from this?". The question has many answers, and I will briefly try to explain some of the major ones.

First, experience. I was asked to do many things that I had never done before, and had no knowledge of how to do properly. After instruction, I was asked to prove my learning ability by applying what I had been told. It was this watered-down "do or die" atmosphere that forced me to learn and become more proficient in my work.

Secondly, I was given a great deal of responsibility, especially in handling one-time situations. The general attitude prevailed that, whatever happened, it was entirely my problem, and it was up to me to make the proper decisions. This trust was very important to me, and a major reason why I enjoyed the internship so greatly.

Thirdly, I developed a great sense of confidence in my ability as a journalist and photographer. This was partly due to the experience and responsibility I developed while here at the Center, and partly due to the positive reinforcement and constructive criticism I received from the Communications Division.

A close look at my first three responses will point towards my fourth and final one - leadership. This internship reinforced my confidence in 4-H as the most effective leadership-training force in our world today - one that I'm extremely proud to be affiliated with.

Of course, there was some bad with the good, but these are relatively minor points.

First, I could have stood a slightly heavier workload. This is a strictly personal preference though, based on the knowledge that I work better when I am pressured, or working under a deadline.

Secondly, I was extremely surprised to find that the Center had no facilities whatsoever for the processing of film or prints. Considering the relatively low cost of these ($50 for a first-rate film and contact-printing facility, $250 for complete enlarging facilities), I don't see how the Foundation can afford <u>not</u> to have them, considering the amount of photography done here and the cost of commercial processing.

All in all, though, I can say that this has been a very special and rewarding three weeks, and that I am very thankful to my sponsors, <u>Ohio Farmer</u> and <u>Buckeye Farm News</u> magazines, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for providing me with this opportunity. I am looking forward to returning sometime, hopefully in the near future.